



The

GARzette



The Official Newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

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www.GARS.org

**Don't forget to support our
advertisers at the back of the
GARzette.**



**GARS January Exhibition of the
Technical aspects of Amateur Radio
Held at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds**

**GARS Meeting: Mobile Installations - Alex Kowalchuk AK4AM
Tuesday July 9, 2024 at 7:00 PM**



President's Message

From the President...



Happy belated 4th of July to everyone – hopefully you could enjoy holiday and spend time with family and friends.

Another field day has come and gone and now that we've had time to recharge, and to stop hearing FT8 tones in my ears, it is a great time to

look back and reflect at all of the fun and fellowship that took place over those 36 hours. Yep, it takes more than just the 24 hours of operating to make field day happen.

This was the first deployment of the new GARS equipment trailer and for many in the club, the first time getting to see it. Joe AD4PZ really did a great job putting it together and I felt like it made unlocking and, at the end of field day, loading all the equipment up a lot easier. GARS



ran our traditional 8A station and we kept most of the stations open for the majority of the 24 hours. A big thank you to all of those who came out to volunteer to get antennas up in the trees, setup the networking gear, operate, socialize, and feed everyone. A big thanks goes

out to our field day chair, David KA4KKF.

If you missed this year, go ahead and block June 22-23 on your calendar for next year so you don't miss out on the fun. If you would like to be involved more, we are looking for a field day chair to take over for David and feel free to reach out to me via the website.

Coming up:

While it may feel like the fall and winter are a distant future, I promise that they will be here before you know it and calendars can easily fill up

some want to make sure you save the dates for the **Stone Mountain HamFest on November 2-3** and **TechFest on January 11, 2025**. Both of these events don't happen without GARS volunteers stepping up and helping out. For TechFest, we are also looking for a chair to take over the event so please reach out to me via the website if you are interested.



73,

Kevin W4KIB
Club President

GARS Repeaters and Other Communications

<u>2 Meter Repeaters</u> 147.075(+) MHz Tone 82.5 147.255(+) MHz Tone 107.2 <u>1.25 Meter Repeater</u> 224.580(-) MHz Tone 100.0, 1.6 MHz Offset <u>70 Cm Repeaters</u> 444.525(+) MHz Tone 82.5 442.100(+) MHz Tone 100 442.325(+) MHz Tone 100	<u>6 Meter Repeater</u> 53.110 (-1 MHz) No Tone (Offline for Maintenance) Other Resources: <u>APRS</u> 144.390 -- 1200 Baud W4GR <u>D-STAR (WD4STR)</u> 145.060 + (1.4 MHz) 440.550 + (5 MHz)	6M Currently down 147.075 Operational in Snellville 147.255 Operational in Snellville 224.580 Operational in Grayson 442.100 Operational at Goshen Springs Rd, Norcross 442.325 Operational in Buford 444.525 Operational in Snellville Link remote receivers being added
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Notable Web Links

Ham Radio Glossary: <https://noji.com/hamradio/glossary.php> a very comprehensive listing provided by Noji Ratzlaff KNØJI. On his site there is also a lot of information about getting started in ham radio.

Need Help – Let GARS Elmers answer your questions

Send an email to elmers@gars.org with the subject listing the area (like Antennas, Repeaters, Digital, DMR etc.) of your query to get to GARS Elmer volunteers.

About the GARzette

The *GARzette* is the official monthly newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the Amateur Radio art.

Original articles, art, and photos are invited and encouraged. Previously copyrighted submissions cannot be accepted for reprinting unless permission from the appropriate publisher is provided in writing along with the information being submitted. If reprints are from publications allowing their unrestricted use, please include a copy of the printed permission contained in the publication.

If possible, bring your articles to the monthly meeting in Microsoft Word or rich text (.rtf) or text or HTML format or by e-mail to editor@gars.org. Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted via e-mail to the same address. Alternate means of submittal can be arranged when necessary.

In keeping with the Amateur Radio spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of The *GARzette* articles by other Amateur Radio club newsletters provided that proper credit is given to the individual author and *The GARzette*.

The GARzette is published each month with the assistance of Karen KI4HPP and Kyle W4KDA who print copies for distribution at meetings, etc. and Dave Bruse, W4DTR, who distributes the newsletter electronically.

Deadline for submissions is the 28th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.

For additional information view our Website at: <http://www.gars.org> [PS— Articles to publish in the *GARzette*, either written by GARS

members or published elsewhere, are always welcome. —Ed.]

Newsletter Email: editor@gars.org Editor: Bob Hoffmann, K4CQO

GARS Personalized Mugs for sale – Bits Print and Press



**Jolie
Dellaneve-
Brown,
KO4AHI**



<mailto:bitsprintandpress@gmail.com>

GARS Meetings & Workshops

GARS Meetings and Workshops are held in-person at the EAA 690 Hangar, 690 Airport Rd, Lawrenceville, GA 30046.

Meetings and Workshops are OPEN to all, feel free to share your invite with others.

GARS Meetings Schedule (second Tuesday @ 7:00 PM): (these are the presentations)

- July 9 - Mobile Installations - Alex Kowalchuk AK4AM
- August 13 – What can I do with DMR – Bob Hoffmann K4CQO
- September 10 - Simple Get on the Air Antennas for HF, VHF, and UHF – Dallas N4DDM
- October 8 - GARS Show-n-Tell, Home Brew/Favorite Projects

Workshop Schedule (third Tuesday @ 7:00 PM): (these are the Hands-on Workshops)

- July 16 - Mobile Installations - Alex Kowalchuk AK4AM
- August 20 – What can I do with DMR – Bob Hoffmann K4CQO
- September 17 - Get on the Air Antennas for HF, VHF, and UHF - Dallas Mellichamp N4DDM
- October 15 - GARS Show-n-Tell, Home Brew/Favorite Projects

GARS Meeting – July 11, 2024 Mobile Radio Installations

Alex, AK4AM, will be giving a tutorial about getting a radio into your vehicle, including antenna mounting ideas, radio mounting, radio power options, etc.

GARS Workshop – July 19, 2024

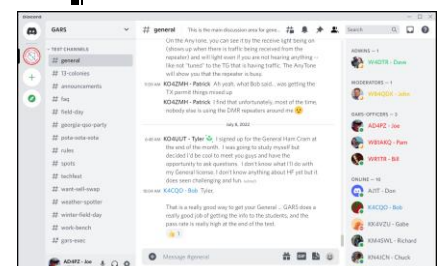
This is a GARS workshop to answer any specific questions about Mobile Radio Installations or any other Q&A about your Amateur Radio projects and adventures.

Feel free to bring any ham related questions you have including equipment setup and usage. We typically have 5 or more Elmers at each Workshop.

GARS would like to thank David Adcock KA4KKF for putting together another successful Field Day.



Don't forget about our Discord utility for GARS announcements, news, activity spotting and more. See <http://www.gars.org> top of the home page. This is a sample of Discord. →



GARS Happenings

20 Years ago in the July 2004 GARzette:

- The GARS newsletter (GARzette) is not available for July 2004. However, all available GARzettes from 1994 can be found and browsed for your enjoyment from the GARS website.

You can always browse the GARzette archive at <http://www.gars.org/newsletters>. 73, Bob, K4CQO, GARzette Editor

GARS
GARzette

[Health and Wellbeing](#) – Sandy Jackson, KJ4DRO

Look for this resource on [Email](https://gars.org/contact/) (<https://gars.org/contact/>) and use it as a means to convey information about a GARS family member or Silent Key notification.

Net Managers Corner

Monday Night 2 Meter “Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net”

GARS NEEDS MEMBERS TO SERVE AS NET CONTROL STATIONS!

GARS is a great Amateur Radio service club with the membership and awards to prove it. Our club is very busy and active, and we use the Monday night net to get timely information out to our members. Weekly participation is needed to make our net function well. There is only a small group of very dedicated people who make the net happen each week, and we need more members to volunteer to serve as Net Control Stations (NCS) on a rotating basis.

Out of almost 300 members, there are only five operators who serve as the NCS for the GARS net every Monday night. In no particular order, they are:

Ray – N4GYN David – KA4KKF Kevin – W4KIB Bill - WD4AMC Chuck – KK4TKJ

As GARS Net Manager (Chuck KK4TKJ), I would like to have more volunteers to fill NCS positions. I do plan and post the schedule months in advance. Any conditions will be accommodated that you as a rotating NCS need to place on the scheduling of your duties. If your plans change, I can make adjustments for the schedule to work, and I will make those changes happen as soon as I am notified of a problem. As Net Manager, I also send out reminders each week to let the NCS scheduled know he or she is NCS for the next Monday night net. In short, serving as a rotating NCS is a small duty but a great contribution to the club. The “Want, Swap, Sell Information Net” begins promptly at 19:30 every Monday night and runs about 30 minutes. As a scheduled NCS, you will request the assistance of a volunteer alternate NCS each time you have Net Control. Your simple duties will be to tune in to the GARS repeater, read the script, take a few notes and forward the information to me for record keeping.

Please lend a hand and contact (Chuck) via Email ([Click Here to Email our Net Manager](#)) to help support the effort that makes GARS the great club that it is. See you on the Nets!

Fridays on 440 Net

The “**Fridays on 440 Net**” starts at 8:30pm on Friday on the 442.100 repeater. The general theme of the net will be a casual ragchew-style net with various, rotating topics of the night throughout its run. This net is also looking for additional NCS from the GARS members.

Contact Alex Kowalchuk, AK4AM or use our Net contact facility ([Click Here to Email our Net Manager](#)).

GARS Field Day 2024

Field day was a hot one but a good one. Band conditions were much better than previous years.

Do not forget Kevins Grill was open on Saturday for lunch. Could not miss Kevin in that apron. Then there was Alex stocking all the munchies that none of us really needed but were good.

Joe did an excellent job on the new GARS cargo trailer. Saved me a lot of additional hauling of stuff this year. Joe's organization of our cables, and other equipment made deploying and packing great.

The two big fans kept air moving under the pavilion were a big hit. Thanks, Alex, for bringing the BIG one.

We started generators around 9:30 to 10 AM Saturday and shut them down just after 2 PM Sunday. The power feed for radios to the pavilion would flux between 500 to 900 watts when I was spot checking the meter.

Generators consumed approximately 18 gallons of fuel during the duration.

The county supplied #1 generator was found during morning testing to automatically shut down on the GARES trailer load after approximately 20 minutes of run time under an estimated load of 2,000 to 2,400 watts with ECO mode off. The #1 generator handled the pavilion load of under 1,000 watts for extended periods with no issues with ECO mode on.

Note: We had previously found that when running the trailer air conditioning unit the generator ECO mode must be off due to the compressor startup surge during cycling. If ECO mode is ON the generators will randomly shutdown due to the surge current from compressor startup.

The #2 county generator and the GARES generator handled the GARES trailer load with ECO mode off, for extended periods with no issues.

We should schedule cable check out for all coax (including the RG 6 for receivers and power cables in the fall when things cool off a bit. We should also develop better way to strain relief coax cable connections to antennas so the connector is not under strain from cable weight and being pulled on when being set up.

I had a blast. Thanks, David, for organizing the event again.

Eddie WD4JEM

****** Preliminary Results provided by David, KA4KKF ******

Call Used: W4GR GOTA Station Call: (NONE) ARRL/RAC Section: GA Class: 8A

Participants: 45 Club/Group Name: Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

Power Source(s): Generator, Solar

Power Multiplier: 2X

Preliminary Total Score: 5,916

Bonus Points:

100% emergency power 800

Public location 100

Public information table 100

W1AW Field Day message 100 Documented by fd2024-arrl-bulletin.txt

Natural power QSOs completed 100 Documented by solar.txt

Safety officer 100 Documented by safety officer 2024 001.jpg

Social media 100

Entry submitted via web 50

Total bonus points 1,450

CW / Digital / Phone / Total

Total QSOs 250 522 689

Total Points 500 1044 689 2233 Claimed Score = (QSO points x power mult) = 4,466

Band/Mode QSO Breakdown:

CW / Digital / Phone

Band / QSOs / Pwr(W) / QSOs / Pwr(W) / QSOs / Pwr(W)

80m 136 100 13 100

40m 62 100 67 100 377 100

20m 188 100 194 100 206 100

15m 116 100 76 100

10m 5 100 17 100

6m 4 100

Total 250 522 689

Field Day 25 Years Ago



2024 Field Day





Field Day 25 Years Ago



2024 Field Day



Field Day 25 Years Ago



2024 Field Day



The 40m SSB Station, 377 QSOs, 26% of our total contacts



Emma helping Grumpaw with logging



Coaching with Alex AK4AM



Andre W7ALS is making a QSO



Emma and Dallas N4DDM



QSO confirmed



Here's another one for the logbook



Bill WB4WTN is waiting to jump in



Bill breaking through the pileup



Alex AK4AM is making another QSO



Alex dropping by



A little more coaching



at the 40m SSB Station



James KG4SKK a little fine-tuning



James KG4SKK and James K1FF



Kevin W4KIB logging and



Then Hunt and Pounce



With more Hunt and Pounce



Dallas N4DDM at the microphone



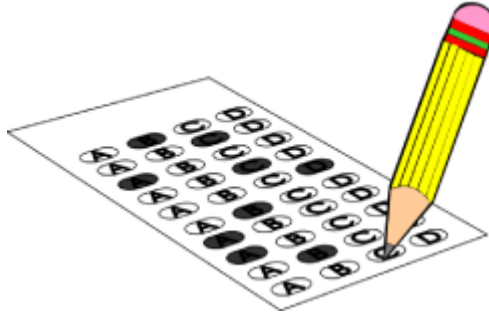
Lee at his first Field Day



Coaching from Dallas N4DDM

General HamCram July 27 and 28

GARS GENERAL LICENSE HAMCRAM CLASS



WHEN: Saturday July 27th and Sunday July 28th 2024; 8:00 am to 4:00 pm each day, exams start at 4:00 pm Sunday (this is a CLOSED exam session, only open to registered students of the class).

WHERE: EAA 690 Hangar, Gwinnett County Airport – [690 Airport Rd, Lawrenceville, GA 30046](#)

MORE INFO: To register for our 2-day HamCram Class, use our registration form on the GARS website. Pre-registration is REQUIRED. No Walk-ins are accepted. This fee is non-refundable. Our \$25 fee covers the class and lunch on both days and the exam fee for the exam given Sunday at 4:00 pm. Lunch will be brought in to save time.

We will be using the Ham Radio School General License Study Guide for this class. You can purchase the study guide locally at Ham Radio Outlet in Doraville, or purchase the book online at HamRadioSchool.com. We encourage you to at least look over the material in a study book and take some practice tests. We suggest that you take some practice tests prior to the class to familiarize yourself with the question format and some of the material. Go to our exam page for sample online tests towards the bottom.

QUESTIONS: Questions about the class or the exam session — [click here to email the instructors.](#)

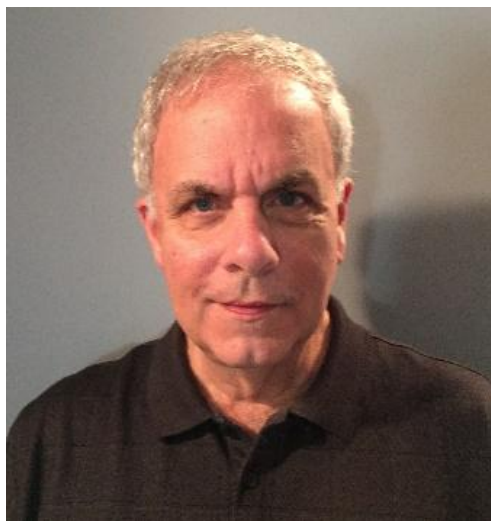
REGISTRATION:

See the registration form on the GARS website; <https://www.gars.org/gars/>

The Hallicrafters FPM-300 - Last Hallicrafters

Vintage Amateur Radio

de Bill Shadid, W9MXQ



Those that know me well and my history with ham radio and with Vintage Amateur Radio in particular, know that I am primarily a Hallicrafters fan. As Hallicrafters said in a 1972 advertisement¹, “You should be talking on a Hallicrafters.” I bought into that philosophy from day one of being a ham radio operator and before that as well. My very first new commercial radio was a high school graduation gift from my parents. That was the popular, in 1963, Hallicrafters SX-110 General Coverage Receiver.

I am an appreciator of many, if not all, brands of vintage amateur radio equipment. I appreciate my Collins, National, Swan, Drake, and other brands of equipment – but Hallicrafters is, and always has been, my favorite brand.

This installment of Vintage Amateur Radio will discuss the very last amateur radio product Hallicrafters marketed². Check this

advertisement:

Hallicrafters' Single Sideband/CW communications comes in many forms, backed by over 38 years of radio engineering experience and service to hams.



hallicrafters



Hallicrafters' communications equipment has a world-wide reputation for high quality and reliability with hundreds of thousands of sets in every-day use by ham operators on every continent.

This is from the April 1972 issue of *Ham Radio Magazine*. Note the arrow I added to the original scan of the advertisement pointing to an unidentified new product from Hallicrafters. Advertising from Hallicrafters introduced the radio the next month. That was the self-contained FPM-300 HF Transceiver.

Self-contained meant that the box you see in the picture include both AC (117/234 VAC) and DC (12 V) Power Supplies and Speaker. All the amateur of the day needed was a microphone and/or a key (and an antenna!) to get on the air. So, here is the radio that was revolutionary in its day:



Hallicrafters FPM-300 Mark II HF Transceiver

W9MXQ Collection

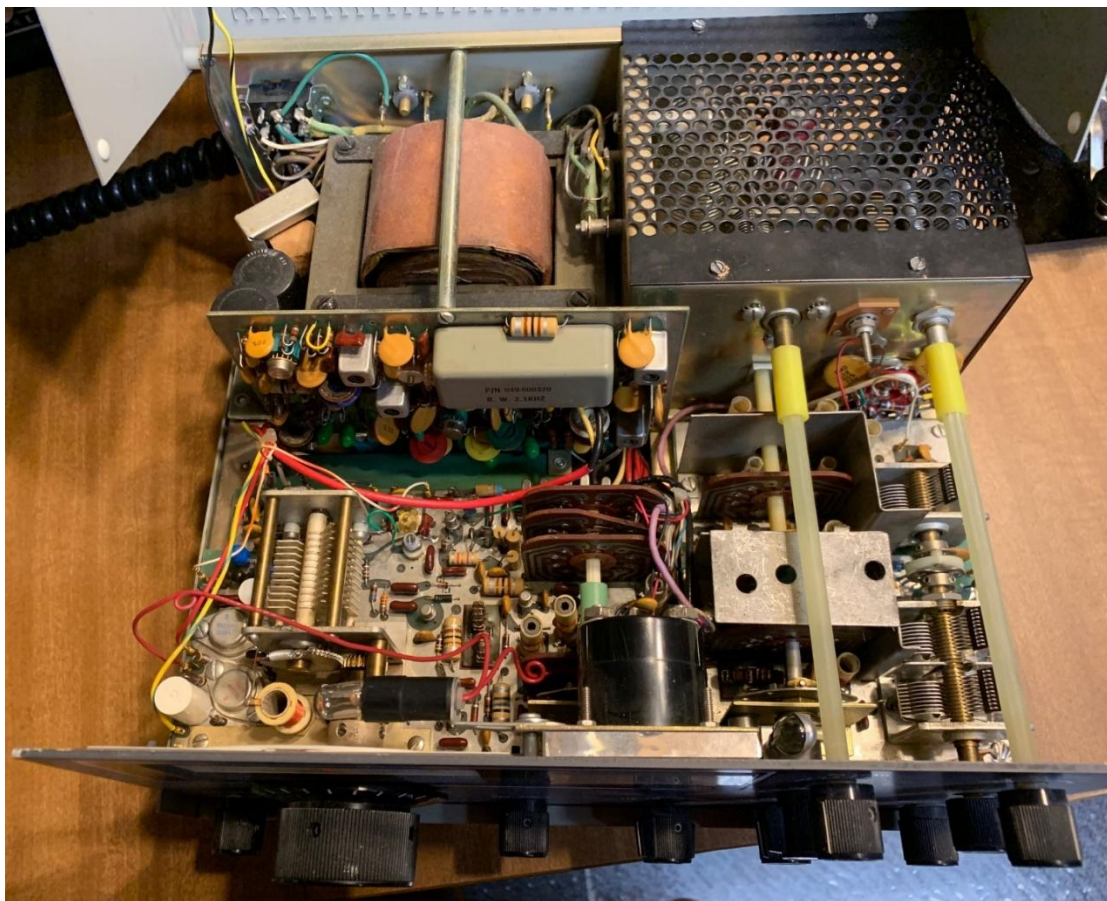
The advertisement on the previous page had received a lot of attention. While the American amateur radio equipment manufacturers were leaving the market for more lucrative, at the time, military work, they were respected by the amateur community. A call that I made to the Chicago factory, after seeing the advertisement, was interesting. It seems the advertisement had been set up without the pending FPM-300 announced to the market. That led to many calls to the factory. And, according to the person that I talked to, had shown much more interest than the marketing department expected.

Before going further, the collector in me makes me want to describe the other products in the advertising picture. Sitting on top of the FPM-300 was what I think was a “Hand Command” HT that operated on 2M FM. However, the Hand Command radios were for the commercial market. To the left of the FPM-300 was the HA-20 Remote VFO that worked with the SR-400A Cyclone III HF Transceiver and the SR-2000 Hurricane HF Transceiver. Below the FPM-300 is the PS-2000 AC Power Supply/Speaker Console for the SR-2000 HF Transceiver. To the left of the PS-2000 is the PS-500A AC Power Supply/Speaker Console for the SR-400A HF Transceiver. To the left of the PS-500A is the HA-1A Electronic Keyer for CW. Below the PS-2000 is the SR-400A HF Transceiver with the SX-133 General Coverage HF Receiver next to it. On the bottom row, below the SR-400A is the SX-122A General Coverage HF Receiver. Finally, next to the SX-122A is the SR-2000 HF Transceiver. The microphone on top of the HA-1A Keyer is a mystery. Hallicrafters most often marketed private labeled Turner microphones so some version of one of Turner’s products may have been this mystery unit.

The FPM-300 had very desirable specifications. First it carried an input power of 250 Watts PEP on SSB for a rated output of 100-watts – on the lower bands it was a bit more and on the 15- and 10-meter bands it was closer to 90-watts. On CW the radio delivered 180-watts input for an output of at least 90-watts.

The radio was all solid state except for a 12BY7A Driver and a single 6KD6 sweep tube final amplifier.

The solid-state portion of the radio was a really fine performing radio at a time when solid state radios in ham radio could leave a lot to be desired in the area of receiver performance – especially overloading of the front end. I have used the one shown here on Field Day with other radios present in a close together operation. There were no problems. Take a look at this interior view – front panel is at the bottom:



Hallicrafters FPM-300 HF Transceiver – View from Top – Cover Open

W9MXQ Collection

This top view shows the VFO/Pre-Mixer/Audio Amplifier board at the front left. The Function Board is mounted vertically on the back plane separating the Power Supply and Power Amplifier areas from the receiver and low-level transmitter circuitry. The Function board carries the 6-Pole Crystal Filter. The filter specifications are for 2.1 kHz at 6 dB down and 5 kHz at 60 dB down – for a shape factor of 2.4 – a bit broad for the technology available at that time but in keeping with the 6-pole design. A positive of the design is very easy listening audio response.

The remaining circuit board, the Pre-Selector/ALC Board, is at the right side of the chassis in the view on the previous page. It is mostly invisible in this view. Note that the Bandswitch Wafers are PC board mounted to the Pre-Selector/ALC Board.

This unit is a Mark II Model – meaning it is the second version of this transceiver. Take a look at this picture of the back panel:



Hallicrafters FPM-300 HF Transceiver – Rear View

W9MXQ Collection

Note the two power transistors used in DC operation. Those are 2N1522 – available readily, today. I do not use this radio on DC power as these are Germanium power transistors and unlikely to take the strain of operation at their age. I have never tried powering my FPM-300 on 12-VDC and will not be doing so. These devices are for display only!

The 12 Volt power transistors are not the only place where this transceiver is delicate, While the transceiver operates very well, it has two ticking time bombs inside in the form of two impossible to replace integrated circuits on the Function Board. Those are:

- MC-1496G – Product Detector and Audio
- LM-370 – Transmitter Audio Compressor/VOX Delay/Anti-Trip

The only thing possible here in the event of a failure is modification to use other forms of case configurations that may be available. If you notice a familiarity in the device callouts, you would be correct. But these particular devices are round and socketed – a case configuration no longer generally available. The once popular LM-370 is now hard to find in any kind of configuration.

The Mark II version of this radio corrected many early production problems with the radios. Lots of issues with the bandswitch and general manufacturing quality. One major improvement in the Mark II was a much better design bandswitch wafer. The new wafers were still PC board mounted but the technology for that kind of switch was new at the time and was not in its best form in the original version. Also, at the time, Hallicrafters was moving amateur radio production to Kansas City, Kansas, to be a part of the electronics operations of Northrup Corporation – Hallicrafters' parent for many years by that time. Generally speaking, Mark II versions, which were all built in Kansas City, are fine little radios. The Mark II discussed in this article provides a lot of pleasure in operating – especially on SSB. The original units could be a quality nightmare and they eventually ruined the reputation of the model and caused its early demise. In the end, this radio was off the market by 1977.

A note of caution here. Some early Mark II radios were actually rebuilt early units that were modified with most (but not all) redesign features included. My advice, if you want one, is to look for radios with the white adhesive back serial label like you see in the rear panel picture in this article. It is my experience that only the Kansas City built units have that label.

On CW, the radio had the same limitations as the Collins KWM-2, the Drake TR-4, and others, in that there were limitations on CW offset and no ability to fine tune the receiver (as with Receiver Incremental Tuning). The offset was acceptable (unlike the terrible CW implementation on the Collins KWM-2), so

the radio was fine for casual CW operation. Also good for contest events where the exchange is too fast to get involved in the minor drift that was common in radios of the time. Suffice it to say that like many radios of the day, CW was an afterthought. These were phone transceivers with, in the case of the FPM-300, no accommodation for much of anything other than SSB.

Hallicrafters, starting with the HT-44 Transmitter, in 1964, included a rudimentary speech compression circuit that upped the average modulation by increasing drive while providing for an ALC circuit that acted very quickly to prevent over modulation. It was effective with somewhere just less than 3 dB of compression – a small number by today's standards but a unique to Hallicrafters feature in the HT-44 and HT-46 Transmitters as well as the FPM-300 Transceivers (and all the transceivers listed, below). This very responsive ALC circuitry was named Amplified Automatic Level Control – "AALC." To quote the Theory of Operation in the FPM-300 Operating and Service Instructions book included with the radio, "The Amplified Automatic Level Control (AALC) circuits are utilized only in the transmit mode. To properly employ the capability of the linear power amplifier, the stage must operate up to and slightly into the control grid current region and yet not overdrive into unwanted distortion known as "flat topping3."

Not shown on the rear view of the FPM-300 is the optional Hallicrafters HA-60 Cooling Fan. You can see the fan location in the previously shown rear view – on the left side of the back panel. There is a 117 VAC outlet toward the right, lower center for powering the fan – see connector marked "BLOWER." This outlet supplies 117 VAC when the radio is on 117 VAC or 234 VAC power. If the radio is running on 12 VDC, then this outlet provides square wave 117 VAC power – on transmit only. The square wave surely makes for a noisy running fan! I have the HA-60 Fan assembly but do not have it installed.

Hallicrafters' transceivers were usually (but not always!!) named after storms. Some had no name at all. Those names include the following:

- SR-150 HF Transceiver – no name given (80-10 meters)
- SR-160 HF Transceiver – no name given (80-40-20 meters)
- SR-400 HF Transceiver – Cyclone (80-10 meters)
- SR-400 HF Transceiver – Cyclone II (80-10 meters)
- SR-400A HF Transceiver – Cyclone III (80-10 meters)
- SR-500 HF Transceiver – Tornado (80-40-20 meters)
- SR-540 HF Transceiver – The Eastwood (80-10 meters)
- SR-750 HF Transceiver – Cyclone (80-10 meters)
- SR-2000 HF Transceiver – Hurricane (80-10 meters)
- FPM-300 HF Transceiver – Safari (80-10 meters)

These were not the only SR and FPM prefix transceivers from Hallicrafters⁴.

Hallicrafters, perhaps to distance themselves from the early FPM-300's, never used the Safari name when advertising the Mark II version of the radio. The Safari name hinted at Hallicrafters having a long history of sponsoring or just supporting DX-Peditions. One example is one that I experienced. That was Hallicrafters' support of DX-Peditions to isolated Pitcairn Island. It was my pleasure to work a Hallicrafters equipped station, operated by Tom Christian, VP6TC, a descendant of Fletcher Christian of Mutiny on the Bounty fame. He was running a nice new, at the time, Hallicrafters SX-117 Receiver and HT-44 Transmitter. I did not work the DX-Pedition but do recall Tom mentioning that Hallicrafters allowed him to keep the Receiver and Transmitter when the DX-Pedition departed. (Tom, VP6TC/VR6TC, is now a Silent Key but his relatives on the island carry-on an amateur radio tradition begun by Tom.)

I have seen pictures of early FPM-300 Transceivers with the word, "SAFARI" screened on the front panel. But I have never seen a Safari printed radio up close and personal.

Hallicrafters in the 1950's was active in many partnership operations with ham radio and the military at bases in the Arctic and the Antarctic. They were also active in operations with National Geographic –

and in particular, I can remember seeing such equipment used extensively during the International Geophysical Year (IGY) running from 1 July 1957 to 31 December 1958⁵.

There are rumors and stories about the FPM-300 that I have come across from other collectors over the years. They may not be worth the effort to discuss – but they are fun to contemplate. The first involved information about a model FPM-750 that is scarce on information. One picture, which I can no longer find, showed a design identical to the FPM-300. So, I suspect at most it was a planned, but never developed, higher power version of the FPM-300. Also, along the line of rumors and stories, there is one about Hallicrafters at the time of their exit from amateur radio approaching R. L. Drake Company about continuing the little FPM-300 under the Drake name. Drake was a stickler for quality and the early quality reputation with the FPM-300 would give Drake a reason to step back from such a proposal – that is, if it ever happened (which it didn't).

A special thanks go to Bob, W9DYQ, for his proof reading and suggestions as to content. And I appreciate that you read my articles. Remember that I am open to questions and comments at my email address, W9MXQ@TWC.com.

Notes and Comments:

¹ This is from a Hallicrafters advertisement in the April 1972 edition of *Ham Radio Magazine*.

² To be sure, Hallicrafters did market short wave receivers for a bit after their last dedicated amateur radio product – but not for long.

³ Reference Section 6-5 of the Hallicrafters **FPM-300 Operating and Service Instructions**.

⁴ Subject of a future article.

⁵ Look up “International Geophysical Year” at <http://www.wikipedia.com>.

W9MXQ



GARS Membership

New Members in June

David Bearden (KQ4QIL)
Tina Bearden
Will Carson (KZ4HV)

New Members: 3

**Total Members as of
July 1, 2024
350**

Join GARS members for our:

- weekly lunch bunch at 11:30 AM most Fridays
- weekly breakfast gathering at 8:00 AM most Saturdays



Friday weekly gatherings are held at the [Vintage Home Kitchen](#) at:

[555 Progress Center Ave](#)
[Lawrenceville, GA 30043](#)

Saturday weekly gatherings are held at the [Cracker Barrel](#) at:

[75 Celebration Dr](#)
[Suwanee, GA 30024](#)

Birthdays in July

Mary Ann Bazain
Becky Bentley (KK4SWI)
Kevin Biddle
Bill Cherepy (WB4WTN)
Bill Cohl (WB2PIH)
Laurel Dickenson (KM4FMP)
Randy Drescher Jr (K4HS)
Steven Francis (KQ4DSI)
Diane Gibson (N3MAD)
Alan Gideon (K5AKG)
Jon Guidry (K5JDG)
Emilee Guidry
Carl Henderson (KQ4NUY)
Bob Hoffmann (K4CQO)
Frank Hummel (KO4MRQ)
Alan Janssen (K4APJ)
Terry Jones (W4TL)
Brian Jones (KD4UYP)
Paul Kelley (W4KLY)
Cathy Kelley (KN4DML)
Sherwin Levinson (K4SML)
Charlotte Matchette (KE4OSR)
Audrey Mc Elroy (KM4BUN)
Larry Osborne (WT4XX)
Bill Pierce (K1LP)
Glenda Sandidge
Stephen Schreiman (KJ4MWF)
Mark Vogt (KQ4GEL)
Sid Weaver (N4NQ)
Don Woodward (KD4APP)

GARS MEMBERSHIP

Your current GARS membership status is shown in the monthly newsletter e-mail towards the bottom of the message. To become a GARS member, or to renew your GARS membership, please visit our website – <http://www.gars.org>. To make changes to your GARS membership (moved, new e-mail address, new phone number, etc.), please contact the Membership Chair at Email (<https://gars.org/contact/>) with any changes to your Membership information.

Membership Chair: Karen Albritton, KI4HPP

Committee Members: Dave Bruse, W4DTR

ARRL MEMBERSHIP

To update your ARRL membership information, please visit their website - <http://www.arrl.org>.

MAINTAIN YOUR LICENSE

You can update your Amateur Radio license information with the FCC at their website for free - <https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/universal-licensing-system>. License renewal is subject to the \$35 FCC fee.



Donating to GARS

Your GARS donation can be used for a certain purpose by donating to one of these funds:

- GARS SK Memorial Fund for Education (to remember and honor Silent Keys);
- GARS Scholarship Fund (Administered by the ARRL for awarding scholarships);
- GARS General Fund (any club purpose).

GARS has joined these rewards programs (a portion of every purchase you make through these merchants may be donated to GARS):

- Kroger Community Rewards program.

For more information on how to sign up for these rewards programs, or to donate to GARS, visit

<http://gars.org/gars/donations-to-the-club>

GARS on Social Media



Discord Request:

<http://gars.org/discord>



Groups.io:

<http://gars.org/groups.io>



Visit GARS on Facebook:

<http://gars.org/facebook>



Follow GARS on X:

https://x.com/GARS_Hams



Join GARS on YouTube:

<http://gars.org/youtube>

GARS Mail Address:

GARS
P.O. Box 492531
Lawrenceville, GA 30049

Officers



Kevin Igarashi-Ball, President W4KIB



Alex Kowalchuk, Vice President AK4AM



Drew White, Secretary KQ4NUQ



Glen Wendt, Treasurer W3WWT



Kevin Scott, Program Manager K4GTR

Managers and Committee Chairs



Karen Albritton, Membership Chair KI4HPP



Dave Bruse, VE Team Leader W4DTR



David Adcock, Webmaster KA4KKF



Ralph Pickwick, Education Chair KJ4CNC



Earl Whatley, Apparel Manager AF4FG



Bob Hoffmann, GARzette Editor K4CQO



Eddie Foust, Repeater Chair WD4JEM



Mike Weathers, WAS / DXCC QSL Card Checker and Historian ND4V



Chuck McCord, Net Manager KK4TKJ



Steve Back, Technical / RFI Advisor WB2OGY



Dallas Mellichamp, Workshop Leader N4DDM



Sandy Jackson, Health and Wellbeing KJ4DRO



Kevin Igarashi-Ball, Multimedia Chair W4KIB



Dallas Mellichamp, Georgia QSO Chair N4DDM



Neil Derryberry, Elmer Manager WD4NET

Open Winter Field Day Chair, Field Day Chair, TechFest Chair

Directors and Trustees



Joe Biddle, AD4PZ



Kyle Albritton, W4KDA



John Davis, WB4QDX



Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN W4GR Trustee

GARS Meeting Minutes

GARS – MEETING 6/11/2024

On June 11th, GARS held its yearly Ice Cream Social. It is held at the upcoming Field Day site – Harbins Park. A short meeting is held and then all attendees enjoy GARS provided ice cream. Many brought a brown bag lunch to enjoy along with socializing with other members and their families before the meeting.



Workshop Minutes - June 18, 2024

Number in Attendance: 14

Workshop Topic: Preps for Field Day, Installing and configuring N3FJP logging software

Presenter: David Adcock KA4KKF

Brief Summary: A few of the Band Captains brought in their laptops and with David's assistance they got N3FJP installed and configured so the Field Day logging laptops will be networked. Harry brought in his IC-705 and John WB4QDX helped him out. Will brought in a Baofeng HT and David KA4KKF helped him program a few repeaters. Fred KX4KL also known as VK2ELF from Sydney dropped in for a visit. Fred was at our Ice Cream Social and will be at GARS Field Day helping score contacts on the CW Station. There was a NanoVNA with 4-5 folks gathered around to learn a little about its operation. There was a discussion about doing Workshop events at Field Day; building/tuning antennas, and installing PL-259s. Kevin said we have a bunch of new cables that need PL-259s installed.

Elmers are always present at the GARS Workshops. Feel free to bring your questions to the Workshop and if your project is small enough to get to the meeting, let us know in advance via email so we can have tools, test gear, etc.



Events – GARS and others

ARRL CONTESTING INFO

From ARRL Contest Calendar

> For more information click the links <

2024	January
1	Straight Key Night
6	Kid's Day
6-7	RTTY Roundup
20-22	January VHF Contest
	February
12-16	School Club Roundup
17-18	International DX – CW
	March
2-3	DX Contest – SSB
	April
21	Rookie Roundup – Phone
	May
	No planned contests
	June
1-2	International Digital Contest
8-10	June VHF
15	Kid's Day
22-23	Field Day
	July
13-14	IARU HF World Championship
	August
3-4	222 MHz and Up Dis Contest
17-18	10 GHz & Up – Round 1
18	Rookie Roundup – RTTY
24-25	EME - 2.3 GHz & Up
	September
14-16	September VHF
21-22	EME - 2.3 GHz & Up – Rnd 2
21-22	10 GHz & Up – Wknd 1
	October
19-20	EME - 50 to 1296 MHz
21-25	School Club Roundup
	November
2-4	Nov. Sweepstakes - CW
16-17	EME - 50 to 1296 MHz
16-18	Nov. Sweepstakes - Phone
	December
6-8	160 Meter
14-15	10 Meter
22	Rookie Roundup–CW

For more information:

<http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

HAMFEST CALENDAR

[Please confirm the status of a Hamfest before making plans to attend]

07/13/2024 - [Cullman Amateur Radio Club Hamfest](#)

Location: Cullman, AL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Cullman Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://cullmanarc.com/hamfest/>

07/20/2024 - [51st Annual Cary Mid-Summer Swapfest](#)

Location: Cary, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Cary Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://caryarc.org>

07/26/2024 - 07/27/2024 [Milton Ham Fest](#)

Location: Milton, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Milton Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://miltonarc.org>

08/17/2024 - 08/18/2024 Huntsville Hamfest, ARRL SE Div. Conv.

Location: Huntsville, AL

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Huntsville Hamfest, Inc.

Website: <http://hamfest.org>

09/21/2024 - [Gadsden Hamfest](#)

Location: Gadsden, AL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Gadsden Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://Gadsdenhamfest.com>

10/19/2024 - [MARCIFEST 2024](#)

Location: Bradenton, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Manatee Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

10/26/2024 - [Wiregrass ARC - Fall Tailgate](#)

Location: Headland, AL

Type: ARRL HamFest

Sponsor: Wiregrass ARC

Website: <http://w4dhn.org>

11/09/2024 - [Montgomery Hamfest](#)

Location: Montgomery, AL

Type: ARRL HamFest

Sponsor: Montgomery Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://w4ap.org>

11/23/2024 - [Flamingo Net Flea at U. of Miami](#)

Location: Coral Gables, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Flamingo Net

Website: <http://FlamingoNet.8m.net>

For more information: www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar

When searching by division, remember some states adjacent to GA are in different divisions: Southeastern: GA, AL, FL Delta: TN Roanoke: NC, SC



GARS Events Calendar for 2024		GARS Recurring Calendar
TechFest Winter Field Day Dog Show Fundraiser Spring Technician HamCram Georgia QSO Party North metro area Fox Hunt Memorial Day Parade ARC/KARC Hamfest Field Day Summer General HamCram Fall Technician HamCram JOTA Stone Mt. Hamfest Holiday Party	January 13 2024 January 27-28 2024 March 5-6 2024 March 23-24, 2024 April 13-14 2024 April 2024 May 27 2024 June 1 2024 June 22-23 2024 July 27-28, 2024 September 2024 October 2024 November 2-3 2024 December 7 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm (except December) Monthly Club Meeting 690 Airport Rd, Lawrenceville, GA 30046 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm (except December) Monthly Workshop 690 Airport Rd, Lawrenceville, GA 30046 3rd Sunday of the Month at 2 pm GARS Ham Exam Session 690 Airport Rd Lawrenceville, GA 30046 Every Monday at 7:30 pm: GARS Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net on the GARS 147.075 MHz repeater Every Monday at 8:30 pm: ARES Training on the GARS 147.075 MHz repeater Every Friday at 11:30 am, GARS Lunch at The 5 Spot Every Saturday at 8:00 am GARS Breakfast at The 5 Spot

GARS Calendar for July 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 7:30 – 8:00 PM 2M Net	2 7:00 PM Exec Meeting	3	4	5 11:30 AM Lunch at Home Kitchen 8:30 - 9:30 PM 70CM Talk Net	6 8:00 AM Breakfast at Cracker Barrel
7	8 7:30 – 8:00 PM 2M Net	9 7:00 PM Meeting EAA 690 Hangar	10	11	12 11:30 AM Lunch at Home Kitchen 8:30 - 9:30 PM 70CM Talk Net	13 8:00 AM Breakfast at Cracker Barrel
14	15 7:30 – 8:00 PM 2M Net	16 7:00 PM Workshop Meeting EAA 690 Hangar	17	18	19 11:30 AM Lunch at Home Kitchen 8:30 - 9:30 PM 70CM Talk Net	20 8:00 AM Breakfast at Cracker Barrel
21 2:00 PM GARS Ham Radio Exams, EAA 690 Hangar	22 7:30 – 8:00 PM 2M Net	23	24	25	26 11:30 AM Lunch at Home Kitchen 8:30 - 9:30 PM 70CM Talk Net	27 8:00 AM Breakfast at Cracker Barrel General HamCram EAA 690 Hangar
28 General HamCram EAA 690 Hangar	29 7:30 – 8:00 PM 2M Net	30	31			



Local Ham Radio Exams & Meetings

GARS Ham Radio Exams

GARS Exam Sessions are held the 3rd Sunday of the month

Preregistration is REQUIRED

Doors open at 1:45pm, exams start promptly by 2:00pm

For more information and to preregister, please visit <https://gars.org/exams/>

GARS VE-Team

VEC: W5YI-VEC

EAA 690 Hangar

690 Airport Rd

Lawrenceville, GA 30046

GARS VE Team Leaders

E-mail: exams@gars.org.



June 2024 Results

The GARS VE Team exam session results from June 16th.

2 Upgrades to General:

- Earnest Moodie - KQ4MKS
- James Wilkinson - KQ4RXX

5 New Technicians:

- Christopher Jordan - KQ4SZG
- Harry Meadows - KQ4TBX
- Andrew Roberts - KQ4SZU
- Anthony Trentini - KQ4TDM
- Della Young - KQ4TEN

Special thanks to the Volunteer Examiners who made this exam session possible:

W4DTR - DAVID BRUSE
AF4FG - EARL WHATLEY
AB4QQ - RUSSELL PREVOST
KJ4CNC - RALPH PICKWICK
KM4SWL - RICHARD KITZ
W4SHT - LYNN HATKER
WR1TR - WILLIAM HAWKINS

Thanks & 73, Chuck McCord, KK4TKJ (Co-CVE)

Local Ham Radio Exams

In order to find an exam session near you, please visit

http://www.arrl.org/exam_sessions/.

Contact the information in the listing for further information.



Local Ham Radio Meetings

In order to find a local Ham Radio Club meeting near you, please visit

<http://www.arrl.org/find-a-club>.

Contact the club for meeting information.



Note: The Amateur Extra question pool expires at midnight UTC on June 30, 2024, and all Amateur Extra exams will use the new question pool beginning on July 1, 2024. If you are studying for Amateur Extra, be sure your study guide is for the correct question pool (usually printed on the cover).

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For swap items, post and see items on [GARS groups.io](https://gars.groups.io).